Additional platform at Sealdah South Station

285. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 406 given in the Rajya Sabha on 23rd July, 1986 and state:

(a) what progress has been made so far regarding construction of one additional platform in Sealdah South station, new Coaching Complex at Sealdah Goods yard;

(b) what measures Government proposes to take for the improvement in traffic movement in Sealdah station;

(c) whether it is a fact that traffic congestion in the Sealdah-Bongaon section has not been reduced to any marked extent even after the doubling of track between Sealdah and Barasat; and

(d) if so, what further steps Government propose to take to ease the congestion in the Sealdah-Bongaon Section of Eastern Railway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Progress of construction of one additional platform at Sealdah South Station is 70 per cent. Plans and estimates are under finalisation for construction of New Coaching Complex at Sealdah for maintenance of rakes.

(b) Work for improvement of traffic circulation in Sealdah Station area was approved in 1986-87 Budget and plans are under approval for taking up the work.

(c) and (d) Traffic congestion has eased in Sealdah-Barasat section with the commissioning of doubling upto Barasat. More relief will become available with the completion of remodelling work at Dum Dum yard. New works for augmentation of capacity on Brasat-Boagaon will be considered in the coming years depanding on availability of resources.

Improvement of navigability of the Ganga

286. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the navigability of the river Ganga has been considerably reduced due to the constant siltation; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken by Government to improve the navigability of the Ganga?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) The navigability of river Ganga has been reduced considerably due to siltation and withdrawal of large volumes of water for irrigation, drinking and industrial requirements.

(b) Three schemes at a total cost of Rs. 15.58 crores are being implemented for development of infrastructural facilities on the Allahabad-Haldia stretch of the Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river to improve the navigation channel, bandalling, river training of hydrographic surveys, dredging the navigation channel, band alling, river training provisio of navigational aids and terminal facilities.

Calcutta circular railway

287. SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER:
SHRI CHITTA BASU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 725 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 30th April, 1986 and state:

(a) what specific steps have since been taken to expeditiously implement the extension project of the Calcutta Circular Railway; and

(b) what is the expenditure involved on the extension project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Planning Commission have cleared Part I of the Calcutta Circular Railway Project envisaging provision of a single line from Dum-Dum to Prinsep Ghat with haulage of trains by diesel locos. By January 1985, in stages, 10 km single line section with diesel haulage from Prinsep Ghat to Ultadanga Road has been commissioned. Further work is in progress.

(b) Upto 31-3-1986, expenditure incurred on Part I of the Calcutta Circular Railway Project has been Rs. 14.40 crores, against its total estimated cost of Rs. 35 crores. For 1986-87, a sum of Rs. 5 crores has been earmarked.

Calcutta Airport

288. SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER:
SHRI CHITTA BASU:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Msnister during his recent visit to Calcutta on October, 17-18 last announced any programme for the improvement of Calcutta Airport; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the amount specifically allotted for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Following the recent visit of the Prime Minister to Calcutta, it has been decided to construct a New International Terminal at Calcutta Airport.

(b) Detailed project report and precise cost estimates are yet to be worked out.

Metro Railway in Calcutta

289. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pace of construction of the Metro Railway in Calcutta has, of late, slowed own;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the construction is likely to be completed as per schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Progress of work on Calcutta Metro has suffered to some extent due to unprecedented rains in Calcutta in the month of September, 1986. Pace of work has, however, picked up in October, 1986. Construction of Metro Railway in Calcutta is likely to be completed by December, 1990 as scheduled, subject to availability of adequate funds in the coming years and acquisition by the State Government of land essentially required for construction of this Project.

Adoption of P.T. Usha by the Central Government

290. SHR SURAJ PRASAD:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kerala Government has recommended to the Union Government to adopt Miss P. T. Usha, India's star performer at the Seol Asiad, as the Brazillian Government did in the case of the legendary footballer Pele; and